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**NEWMARKET RURAL DISTRICT**

in the

**Administrative County of Cambridgeshire**



---

**ANNUAL REPORT**

of the

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

Including the

**Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector**

for

**1959**





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## GENERAL STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area: Land 80,856 acres.

Water 245 acres.

Number of Parishes: 22.

Rateable Value: £146,757 (1.4.60).

Estimated sum represented by a penny rate for year 1959-1960: £568.

Number of inhabited houses: 7,187 (1.4.60).

Estimated mid-year Home Population: 19,880.

Census Population 1951: 20,220.

Birth Rate	..	..	14.4
(Corrected)	..		15.7
Death Rate	..	..	10.9
(Corrected)	..		9.9
Infant Mortality Rate			17.5

## MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

### CHAIRMAN

Councillor H. Palmer.

### COUNCILLORS

R. S. T. Bowden, Dip.Bact., M.R.C.V.S.

J. H. Budden.

A. Gathercole.

Revd. J. B. Goodchild.

Mrs. S. Horwood-Smart.

Col. D. R. B. Kaye, D.S.O. (from October, 1959).

F. Murfet, J.P.

J. T. Nunn.

J. G. A. Paul.

C. F. Sargeant.

Mrs. J. O. Smith.

A. H. Trinder.

Revd. P. R. K. Whitaker (to September, 1959).

### STAFF

Medical Officer of Health: James Drummond, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector: D. Howells, A.M.I.P.H.E., M.R.S.H.

Additional Public Health Inspector: F. H. Mason, A.R.S.H.

Clerk: Miss S. Furze.



To the Chairman and Members  
of the  
Newmarket Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my annual report for the year 1959. As it was not until 1st April that I took up my appointment, for the first three months of the year my predecessor, Dr. Tyser, remained in office. That the transfer was able to be made with no difficulties is a tribute to the excellent way in which the services of the public health department had been administered under Dr. Tyser's leadership.

#### **Vital Statistics.**

There has been a slight increase in population during the year from 19,790 to 19,880, apparently due entirely to natural increase. When one considers the 1951 census population figure of 20,220, even after correction for the loss of 500 boys and staff following closure of the Polish boys' school at Bottisham in 1952, it is obvious that the population of the area is tending to emigrate. It is of interest when one studies the annual reports of the Medical Officer of Health of fifty and more years ago to find that this emigration has been a feature of the area for many years. During the years 1899 to 1909—at a time when the number of births was more than twice the number of deaths—the population fell from 19,127 to 18,846.

In view of these comments it is not surprising to discover that there has been a slight fall in the birth rate—from 17 to 15·7 births per thousand population. The death rate remains unchanged at 9·9 and is still considerably below the national rate of 11·6 per thousand population.

The rise of the still birth rate from 3·2 per thousand live and still births in 1958 to 20·5 in 1959 need not occasion alarm but rather regret that the exceptionally low figure of the previous year was not maintained.

Although the infant mortality rate has increased slightly from 16·2 to 17·5 per thousand live births this figure is still considerably below the national one of 22·0.

#### **Infectious Diseases.**

A localised outbreak of pulmonary tuberculosis among four teenage girls, although small in numbers, was great in significance. These girls, in good general health and working in good conditions, nevertheless speedily spread the infection amongst themselves. At a time when there has been a dramatic reduction in the pulmonary tuberculosis death rate and when some circles are already speaking of the scourge of tuberculosis in the past tense this reminder of the susceptibility of the young people in our midst is most monitory. The introduction of B.C.G. vaccination against tuberculosis by the County Health Department for all children over the age of thirteen years should go a long way in protecting future young people when they leave school and start work. It is important to remember also that the sources of infection for many young people who have acquired the disease are the middle aged and elderly whom they meet at work, at play, or in the home. When opportunity is available for a routine chest X-ray by a mass miniature radiography unit every person should look upon it as their duty to be X-rayed not only for their own protection but for the protection of others.

An X-ray survey of all the work people at these young girls' place of employment was carried out with completely satisfactory results.

The nation wide epidemic of measles had its local counterpart and the number of cases notified increased threefold compared with last year. As I have noted in the body of the report, a high proportion of complications occurred, particularly in the younger children.

Amongst the eight cases of dysentery which were notified, the case of the man who worked on the delivery of cooked meat and meat products is noteworthy by reason of the exceptional co-operation and understanding of the firm involved, which deserves the highest praise.



### **Sanitary Circumstances.**

It is with considerable pride that we await the advent of the new Slaughterhouse Regulations on the appointed day of 1st January, 1961. The new premises which have been constructed are a model of what small slaughterhouses with a limited throughput should be, and are a testimony to the work of the Chief Public Health Inspector who was largely responsible for their design. The importance of this aspect of the public health inspectors' work can be judged by the fact that over 30% of the visits made during the year were in connection with slaughterhouses and butchers' shops.

Another major part of the inspector's time was spent on visits in connection with drainage and sewerage. There is every likelihood that this work will increase as more and more schemes for the sewerage of the villages come to fruition. With the Lode and Longmeadow sewerage scheme completed during the year, the Burwell and Fordham scheme on the point of commencement and the Dullingham scheme in the "pipe line" it might well be said that a wind of change is blowing through the countryside. No longer will a piped water supply and main drainage be deemed to be the privilege of the town dweller.

The introduction of a weekly refuse collection during the year was a further step in bringing the municipal services up to the standard previously expected only in urban areas. The cleansing section are to be congratulated on carrying out this service so well and so cheaply.

### **Administration.**

At the time of preparation of this report the draft proposals of the local government commission set up to review areas of local government in England and Wales have been published. The suggestion that the eastern boundary be resited so that a major portion of the district is removed and the remainder left a scarcely viable unit seems singularly inappropriate in an area where municipal services are extremely efficient and the standard of amenities at present being developed in the rural area would bear comparison with many urban areas.

I should like to thank the members of the Council for their encouragement during this my first year in office and my colleagues in the public health department for their ready and unflagging support.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES DRUMMOND.

August, 1960.

## VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

(The mid-year home population is used for the statistical calculations).

<b>Live Births.</b>								MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	147	128	275
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	7	11
								<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	151	135	286
								<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Birth rate per thousand estimated population	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14.4
Birth rate corrected by comparability factor (1.09)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15.7
Birth rate per thousand population (England and Wales)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16.5
<b>Still Births.</b>								MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	2	6
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
								<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	2	6
								<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Rate per thousand live and still births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20.5
Rate per thousand live and still births (England and Wales)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20.7
<b>Deaths..</b>								MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	108	108	216
Death rate per thousand estimated population	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10.9
Death rate corrected by comparability factor (0.91)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9.9
Death rate per thousand population (England and Wales)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11.6
<b>Infant Mortality.</b> Deaths of infants under one year of age.								MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4 (3)	1 (1)	5 (4)
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
								<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4 (3)	1 (1)	5 (4)
								<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

(Deaths of infants under four weeks and under one week of age are shown in brackets).



Infant Mortality rate. (Infant deaths under one year per thousand live births)	..	..	17·5
Infant Mortality rate. (England and Wales)	..	..	22·0
Neonatal Mortality rate. (Infant deaths under four weeks per thousand live births)	..	14·0	
Early Neonatal Mortality rate. (Infant deaths under one week per thousand live births)	..	14·0	
Perinatal Mortality rate. (Still births and deaths under one week combined per thousand live and still births)	..	34·2	
Legitimate Infant Mortality rate per thousand legitimate live births	..	18·2	
Illegitimate Infant Mortality rate per thousand illegitimate live births	..	Nil	
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	..	3·8%	
Maternal deaths. (Deaths ascribed to pregnancy, childbirth and abortion)	..	Nil	
Maternal Mortality rate per thousand live and still births	..	Nil	

Deaths from cancer (all ages)	..	..	43
Deaths from tuberculosis (all ages)	..	..	Nil
Deaths from whooping cough	..	..	Nil
Deaths from measles	..	..	Nil
Deaths from pneumonia	..	..	8
Deaths from influenza	..	..	2
Deaths from diarrhoea (under 2 years)	..	..	Nil

### CERTAIN COMPARATIVE RATES.

					1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
*BIRTH RATE..	..	..	..	..	15·6	14·6	14·5	15·1	15·6	14·4
*DEATH RATE	..	..	..	..	11·5	10·4	10·4	10·4	10·6	10·9
INFANT MORTALITY RATE	..	..			44·6	27·2	17·1	19·6	16·2	17·5
					(14)	(8)	(5)	(6)	(5)	(5)

\*These rates are uncorrected. The figures in brackets are the number of infant deaths in each year.

### TABLE CLASSIFYING DEATHS UNDER AGE GROUPS.

								MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Under 1 year	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	1	5
1 and under 2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
2 and under 5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
5 and under 15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
15 and under 25	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	—	1
25 and under 35	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	1	1
35 and under 45	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	3
45 and under 55	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	3	12
55 and under 65	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21	10	31
65 and under 75	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	28	29	57
75 and over	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	43	63	106
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	<u>108</u>	<u>108</u>	<u>216</u>



## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

### **Medical Officer of Health.**

"The Cambridgeshire United Districts (Medical Officer of Health) Order 1951" provides for the appointment of a Medical Officer of Health to the Chesterton, Newmarket and South Cambridgeshire Rural District Councils. Under present arrangements the officer is also appointed Deputy County and School Medical Officer to the Cambridgeshire County Council.

### **Public Health Inspectors.**

Mr. Howells continues as Chief Public Health Inspector assisted by Mr. Mason.

### **Laboratory Facilities.**

Chemical and bacteriological examinations of water are made by the Public Analyst at Cambridge. The Public Health Laboratory, Cambridge, undertake bacteriological and biological examinations of milk and bacteriological examinations of water samples, and all necessary examinations in cases of infectious diseases.

### **Hospitals.**

There are no General Hospitals situated in the area. Cases of infectious disease requiring hospital treatment are sent to Cambridge City Isolation Hospital or to the Exning Isolation Hospital.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1959.

### **Scarlet Fever.**

A slight increase in the number of cases from 13 to 20 occurred this year and the majority tended to be limited to the Burwell area. There is no significance in this fact and the disease was not serious but in an agricultural area where dairy herds are common it is essential that one continues to investigate all scarlet fever notifications.

### **Whooping Cough.**

The increase in the number of cases notified to 44 brought the figure back to its usual level after the abnormally low one of three last year.

### **Dysentery.**

Eight cases were notified during the year but it was felt that these were only a pointer to many more mild cases which occurred within the community.

Of particular interest is the fact that one case occurred in a man who delivered cooked meat products throughout a wide area. The ready co-operation of the manufacturing firm showed a high sense of community responsibility and no spread of infection occurred.

### **Food Poisoning.**

Only two cases of food poisoning were notified and were unrelated isolated cases which were nevertheless thoroughly investigated by the department.

### **Measles.**

The rise of measles cases from 140 to 437 was part of a national epidemic, which continued unabated well into the third quarter of the year. A high incidence of complications occurred (up to 40% of cases) in which bronchitis or broncho-pneumonia were the most common. It was apparent that the lightness with which many people now regard the illness is hardly justified and although deaths are now extremely rare from measles it can still be and often is a severely debilitating disease.

### **Pulmonary Tuberculosis.**

There were eight new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis notified in 1959 as compared with 5 last year. This rise was mainly accounted for by a short, sharp outbreak amongst four girls aged 15 to 16 years. Three worked together and the fourth had been previously in contact with the others. In spite of the fact that all of these girls were healthy and their working conditions were good they nevertheless acquired the disease.



## THE PUBLIC HEALTH (Infectious Disease) REGULATIONS, 1953.

Under these Regulations a special provision is made to facilitate the investigation and control of outbreaks of 'Food Poisoning' (which includes typhoid fever, paratyphoid fever, or other salmonella infection, dysentery and staphylococcal infection likely to cause food poisoning) in that (a) the existing provisions regarding the prevention of a person suffering from a food poisoning infection from continuing in or entering into an occupation connected with the preparation and handling of food or drink are now extended to include 'carriers' of food poisoning infections, (b) local authorities may authorise their medical officer of health to issue on their behalf notices where required to effect (a) immediately if he thinks it necessary and then report such action to his Authority as soon as possible.

Such authority has been given to the medical officer of health but has not so far had occasion to be used.

### MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH.

#### Annual Case Incidence and Deaths, 1949-1959.

Disease	Years											
	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	Total	1959
MEASLES												
Cases ..	492	11	176	94	48	94	446	24	100	140	1,625	437
Deaths ..	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
WHOOPING COUGH												
Cases ..	15	51	101	64	16	86	52	4	61	3	453	44
Deaths ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

### TUBERCULOSIS.

Eight cases of respiratory tuberculosis were notified for the first time during the year. One respiratory case was transferred to the district previously notified in another area. On balance at the end of the year there were five less respiratory and fourteen less non-respiratory cases on the register.

### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

#### Section 47.

No action was required under this Section during the year.

#### Section 50.

No action was required under this Section during the year.



NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN AGE GROUPS, 1959.

Age in Years	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Acute Poliomyelitis Paralytic Non-Paralytic	Dysentery	Measles	Totals
Under 1 year	-	3	-	-	7	10
1 — ..	-	2	-	-	24	26
2 — ..	2	5	-	-	25	32
3 — ..	1	4	-	1	30	36
4 — ..	-	2	-	-	30	32
5 — 9 ..	14	21	-	3	249	287
10 — 14 ..	3	7	-	2	63	75
15 — 24 ..	-	-	-	1	7	8
25 and over	-	-	-	1	2	3
Age Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS ..	20	44	-	8	437	509
1958 TOTALS	12	3	-	-	140	155

Age in Years	Acute Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Food Poisoning	Puerperal Pyrexia	Para- typhoid	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Totals
Under 5 ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 — 14 ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 — 44 ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 — 64 ..	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
65 and over	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
TOTALS ..	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
1958 TOTALS	1	-	3	4	-	-	8

TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER.

		Respiratory Male	Respiratory Female	Non-Respiratory Male	Non-Respiratory Female	Total Male	Total Female
1.	Number of Cases on Register at commencement of year .. ..	33	26	7	7	40	33
2.	Number of Cases notified for first time during year under Regulations	3	5	-	-	3	5
3.	Cases restored to Register .. ..	-	-	-	-	-	-
4.	Cases added to Register otherwise than by notification under Regulations—						
	(a) Transferred from other Districts .. ..	1	-	-	-	1	-
	(b) From Death Returns .. ..	-	-	-	-	-	-
5.	Number of Cases removed from Register .. ..	7	13	2	6	9	19
6.	Number of Cases remaining on Register at end of year .. ..	30	18	5	1	35	19

AGE AND SEX DISTRIBUTION.  
RESPIRATORY AND NON-RESPIRATORY TUBERCULOSIS  
CASES ON REGISTER AT 31.12.59.

Age Group	Resp.	Male Non-Resp.	Resp.	Female Non-Resp.	Resp.	Total Non-Resp.	Grand Total
0 — 15 ..	4	3	2	-	6	3	9
15 — 25 ..	1	-	7	-	8	-	8
25 — 35 ..	7	1	4	1	11	2	13
35 — 45 ..	7	1	3	-	10	1	11
45 — 55 ..	5	-	1	-	6	-	6
55 — 65 ..	3	-	-	-	3	-	3
65 and over ..	3	-	1	-	4	-	4
TOTALS ..	30	5	18	1	48	6	54



# REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

The following is a summary of the inspections carried out during 1959:—

Slaughterhouses and Butchers' Shops	..	..	..	..	..	1,323
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	27
Food Premises registered under Section 16, Food and Drugs Act, 1955						306
Miscellaneous food premises	..	..	..	..	..	206
Canteens	..	..	..	..	..	4
Licensed Premises	..	..	..	..	..	58
Shops (Under Shops Act, 1950)	..	..	..	..	..	7
Knacker's Yard	..	..	..	..	..	4
Factories	..	..	..	..	..	59
Public Cleansing	..	..	..	..	..	186
Infectious Disease enquiries	..	..	..	..	..	34
Premises disinfected or disinfested	..	..	..	..	..	9
Drainage and Sewerage	..	..	..	..	..	1,192
Sewage Disposal Works	..	..	..	..	..	3
Moveable Dwellings	..	..	..	..	..	40
Dwellinghouses (including re-visits)	..	..	..	..	..	200
Water Supply (excluding visits for sampling)	..	..	..	..	..	146
Re Improvement grants	..	..	..	..	..	112
Nuisances (including re-visits)	..	..	..	..	..	56
New drains tested	..	..	..	..	..	6
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	170
Verminous Premises	..	..	..	..	..	4
TOTAL						<u>4,152</u>

Number of samples taken:—

Water	..	..	..	..	..	88
Milk	..	..	..	..	..	28
Ice Cream	..	..	..	..	..	15
Informal Notices served	..	..	..	..	..	77
Statutory Notices served	..	..	..	..	..	14
Specimens collected	..	..	..	..	..	20

# PARISH STATISTICS.

Parish	Acreage	Population (1951 Census)	Rateable Value at 1.4.60.	No. of Council Dwellings		1d. Rate Product 1959/60
				Pre-War	Post-War	
ASHLEY .. ..	2,225	462	2,149	36	42	8
BOTTISHAM ..	2,854	1363	7,983	31	108	31
BRINKLEY ..	1,303	169	1,311	—	14	5
BURROUGH GREEN	2,272	283	1,319	18	10	5
BURWELL .. ..	7,016	2,304(est.)	25,891	89	163	103
CHEVELEY ..	2,559	1,348	10,598	17	48	42
CHIPPENHAM ..	4,301	437	3,953	—	20	15
DULLINGHAM ..	3,387	523	2,647	9	34	10
FORDHAM L.A. }	4,331	1,705	11,281	85	88	41
FORDHAM N.L.A. }			180			1
ISLEHAM .. ..	5,230	1,342	6,147	51	76	23
KENNETT .. ..	1,431	203	3,462	5	32	14
KIRTLING .. ..	3,126	393	1,612	6	14	6
LODE .. ..	3,133	595	2,887	27	26	11
REACH .. ..	1,126	312(est.)	991	4	18	4
SNAILWELL ..	2,034	325	1,473	1	10	6
SOHAM .. ..	12,999	4,865	35,650	191	244	137
STETCHWORTH ..	2,891	475	5,341	8	42	21
SWAFFHAM BULBECK	4,110	611	3,394	39	45	13
SWAFFHAM PRIOR	4,891	668(est.)	3,452	42	36	13
WESTLEY .. ..	1,149	193	680	—	6	3
WICKEN .. ..	3,965	665	2,461	19	26	9
WOODDITTON L.A. }	4,768	979	8,134	26	30	17
WOODDITTON N.L.A. }						14
GAS .. ..			198			—
ELECTRICITY ..						—
DISTRIBUTION ..			2,289			16
ELECTRICITY ..						—
GENERATING ..			1,274			—
TOTAL ..	81,101	20,220	146,757	704	1,132	568



# HOUSING

## Houses not included in Clearance Areas.

### DEMOLITION & CLOSING ORDERS.

(1) Houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17, Housing Act, 1957 .. .. .	23
(2) Unfit houses closed under Sections 16 & 17, Housing Act, 1957	19
(3) Parts of buildings closed under Section 18, Housing Act, 1957..	Nil

### REPAIRS.

#### HOUSES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED.

(4) After informal action by Local Authority .. .. .	63
(5) After formal notice under Public Health Acts	
(a) by owners .. .. .	18
(b) by Local Authority .. .. .	Nil
(6) After formal notice under Housing Act, 1936	
(a) by owner .. .. .	Nil
(b) by Local Authority .. .. .	Nil

### ACTION TAKEN DURING THE POST-WAR PERIOD.

Parish	Demolished		Houses Closed		Parts of Buildings Closed	Demolition Orders Made	D.O's etc. Cancelled
	Houses	Hutments	Orders	Undertakings			
ASHLEY ..	13	—	—	2	—	11	—
BOTTISHAM ..	15	12	6	2	1	37	—
BRINKLEY ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
BURROUGH GREEN ..	4	—	3	2	—	4	—
BURWELL ..	10	—	8	4	—	17	1
CHEVELEY ..	5	—	2	2	—	2	—
CHIPPENHAM	1	—	2	2	—	1	—
DULLINGHAM	4	—	2	5	—	6	—
FORDHAM ..	13	—	5	1	—	16	—
ISLEHAM ..	23	—	5	3	—	23	2
KENNETT ..	2	—	1	—	1	1	—
KIRTLING ..	3	—	—	—	—	3	—
LODE ..	3	—	—	1	—	6	1
REACH ..	3	—	—	—	—	8	—
SNAILWELL ..	1	37	1	—	—	2	—
SOHAM ..	42	—	9	4	5	45	2
STETCHWORTH	6	—	2	1	—	—	—
SWAFFHAM							
BULBECK	4	—	5	5	—	7	—
SWAFFHAM							
PRIOR ..	11	—	3	—	—	12	—
WESTLEY							
WATERLESS	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
WICKEN ..	6	—	1	3	—	8	—
WOODDITTON	8	—	3	1	—	5	—
TOTAL ..	177	49	58	39	7	214	6

34 houses were built by private enterprise during the year and the Council built the following dwellings:—

Two bedroom bungalows .. .. .	28
One bedroom old persons' bungalows .. .. .	4
One bedroom old persons' flats .. .. .	4
	<hr/>
	36
	<hr/>

Work commenced on the building of the old people's unit at Clay Street, Soham and the project is creating considerable interest throughout the area.

### NEW DWELLINGS CONSTRUCTED DURING THE PAST TEN YEARS.

Year	By the Local Authority	By Private Enterprise	Total
1950	38	17	55
1951	112	5	117
1952	72	20	92
1953	137	52	189
1954	110	58	168
1955	140	35	175
1956	124	49	173
1957	36	59	95
1958	52	85	137
1959	36	34	70
Total	857	414	1,271

### Council Houses.

The Council now owns 1,822 houses which are under the management of the Council's Surveyor. The 1959/60 programme includes the modernization of 96 pre-war Council houses and at the time of writing, 71 have been completed. This brings the total of completed schemes up to 236. However, there are still many Council houses which lack water-borne sanitation and the matter must continue to be treated as urgent. It has been the policy of the Council to sell their houses to sitting tenants or other suitable applicants and 44 properties have changed hands since the scheme commenced. A differential rent scheme is in operation.

### Housing Improvements—House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959.

The above Act introduced the "standard grant" which assists owners financially in the provision of five basic amenities in the older type of properties, where it is difficult to comply with the twelve point standard laid down in previous legislation but still retained by the present Act. The Council must be satisfied that the premises will be reasonably fit for habitation for a period of 15 years and the following facilities must be exclusive to the dwelling on completion of the work:—

Amenity	*Maximum Grant
(a) Bath or shower in a bathroom	£25
(b) Wash hand basin	£5
(c) Water closet	£40
(d) Hot water supply (including connection to sink)	£75
(e) Food store	£10

\*The grant cannot exceed half the cost of the improvements.



It is unfortunate that no provision has been made for the extra cost of drainage in rural areas where a septic tank system can cost £100 to £150. Public Health Departments know only too well that thousands of rural cottages are not provided with kitchen sinks but this essential amenity has been excluded from the above standard, except for a brief reference to a hot water supply over a sink.

This department deals with all enquiries and preliminary applications, the property is inspected and the owner advised on the best layout, plumbing and drainage to comply with either the "standard grant" requirements or the twelve point standard laid down for a "discretionary grant" which in some circumstances reaches the maximum of £400. The final proposals are examined and passed to the Council's Surveyor, along with relevant comments, and he in turn checks the scheme and the builder's

## CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT, 1959

### OMISSION

#### Page 17 (Paragraph relating to Housing Improvement Grants)

The following figures are of interest :—

(a)	Number of houses on which improvement grants were paid during 1959	..	46
(b)	Amount paid in grants	.. .. .	£9,085
(c)	Number of properties improved since the Act came into force	.. .. .	347
(d)	Amount paid in grants on (c)	.. .. .	£73,904

Only one application for a Certificate of Disrepair was received during the year.

#### Clearance of Unfit Dwellings.

Forty two unfit dwellinghouses were either closed or demolished during the year. The introduction of improvement grant schemes has encouraged some owner occupiers to carry out preservation proposals and at a time when land and property values are rising rapidly it is becoming increasingly difficult to interpret the term "reasonable expense" within the meaning of the Housing Act, 1957. Very few private landlords are interested in large scale cottage improvement schemes but farmers are finding that labour cannot be retained if reasonably modern cottages are not provided for their workers. The housewives, who after all spend most time in the home, are demanding a better standard and this department will continue to support their case.

## INSPECTION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

#### Slaughterhouses.

Five licensed slaughterhouses are in regular use and one small establishment closed down in September, very little slaughtering having taken place throughout the year. Two of the slaughterhouses are entirely new and were first licensed in July 1958 and January 1959. A third slaughterhouse has been completely modernized to comply with The Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations, 1958 and The Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1958. Improvement works at the remaining two slaughterhouses are almost complete and 1st January, 1961, has been suggested by the Council as the "Appointed Day" under the provisions of the Slaughterhouses Act, 1958, after which date all premises must comply with the above Regulations.

All animals have been thoroughly inspected by a qualified staff and again it must be reported that the quality of the carcasses and standard of dressing are excellent. Our thanks are extended to the Equine Research Station staff at Balaton Lodge for the prompt assistance given in the examination of suspected *C. Bovis* cysts.

One thousand three hundred and twenty three visits were made to slaughterhouses and butchers' shops and the following table shows the quantity of meat and offal condemned as unfit for human consumption.



### Meat and Offal Condemedned.

					Bovine	Pigs	Sheep and Lambs
Whole Carcases	..	..	..		2	1	—
Livers	..	..	..	..	110	64	3
Half Livers	..	..	..	..	52	1	2
Lungs	..	..	..	..	7	7	1
Heads	..	..	..	..	14	52	—
Kidneys	..	..	..	..	1	—	—
Hearts	..	..	..	..	4	6	—
Mesentery	..	..	..	..	5	4	—
Skirt	..	..	..	..	1	—	—
Spleen	..	..	..	..	2	—	—

Seventy six tins of various foodstuffs were condemned as unfit for human consumption.

### Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemedned in Whole or in Part during the Year 1959.

	Cattle not Cows	Cows	Calves	Pigs not Sows	Sows	Sheep and Lambs	Horses
Number killed and inspected	547	13	15	2329	78	1464	—
<b>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerici:—</b>							
Whole carcases condemned	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	160	2	—	71	1	6	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerici ..	29.4	15.3	—	3.0	—	0.4	—
<b>Tuberculosis only:—</b>							
Whole carcases condemned	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	15	2	—	48	6	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis .. ..	2.9	15.3	—	2.6	7.6	—	—
<b>Cysticeriosis:—</b>							
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ..	8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—



### Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.

Seven hundred and seventeen visits were made to food premises (excluding slaughterhouses) during the year and the following improvements were recorded:—

New or reconditioned premises	..	..	..	3
Washing facilities improved	..	..	..	1
Improvements to fittings, benches, etc.	..	..	..	6
General decorations	..	..	..	6
General repairs	..	..	..	5

One cafe closed down and was later demolished as part of a road improvement scheme.

Most food traders appreciate the importance of food hygiene, not only as a check on food deterioration but as an attraction to the customer.

### Registered Food Premises.

The following premises are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs, Act, 1955:—

(a) Sausage and cooked meat premises	..	..	..	..	15
(b) Fried Fish Shops	..	..	..	..	5
(c) Premises used for the storage and sale of ice cream	..	..	..	..	60
(d) Premises used for the manufacture of ice cream	..	..	..	..	1

Three hundred and six visits were made to the above premises during the year.

### Ice Cream.

Fifteen samples of ice cream were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination and thirteen were reported as Grade 1 and two as Grade 2. Ninety two visits were made to ice cream premises during the year.

The premises at Soham where ice cream is manufactured on a small scale are generally well kept and improved washing facilities and sanitary accommodation have been installed in response to informal action. The ice cream is sold loose, chiefly from mobile kiosks, and these are provided with suitable hand washing facilities. All samples from these premises were reported as Grade 1.

Most of the ice cream sold in the area is manufactured and prepacked by well known firms.

### Milk.

The Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) Order, 1959 came into operation on the 6th April, 1959. This Order designated the Newmarket Rural Area as a "specified area" wherein it is now obligatory to use a special designation for the purpose of all sales of milk by retail for human consumption.

There are no registered dairies in the area, other than those attached to dairy farms. Eleven distributors are registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949-1954. Milk production is supervised by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and we are informed that 30 dairy farms are registered in this area; 22 of these are Tuberculin Tested herds.

### Licences.

#### Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949.

Dealers' Licences issued	..	..	..	17
Supplementary Licences issued	..	..	..	10

### Sampling.

Twenty five samples of pasteurised milk were collected from schools, on behalf of the County Medical Officer of Health, and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for statutory examination. These were all reported as satisfactory.

Three samples of raw milk were submitted for biological examination; no evidence of tuberculosis or *Brucella abortus* was found.

### Poultry.

One of the two poultry dressing establishments reported last year has virtually closed down. The second premises are proving to be inadequate and the occupier is endeavouring to find a suitable site where new premises will be built. Some difficulty has been experienced in the disposal of feathers,



intestines, etc., but this has been overcome, the offensive material being regularly collected by a contractor.

**Licensed Premises.**

Fifty eight inspections of public houses were made during the year, special attention being paid to sanitary accommodation and glass washing facilities. The licensing justices have demanded a better standard of accommodation in recent years and several premises have closed down.

**Bakehouses.**

Twenty seven visits were made to the 14 bakehouses during the year and the standard of hygiene was found to be generally good. Some of the bakers have installed oil fires which is a vast improvement over the old hand stoked ovens.

**Slaughter of Animals Acts, 1933—1958.**

Twenty three licences were issued to slaughtermen although a number of men concerned are not engaged in regular slaughtering. The Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1958, are strictly enforced and stunning pens have been installed at the four premises where adult cattle are slaughtered.

**Knacker's Yard.**

One old established Knacker's Yard is licensed but very little business is carried on; one horse was slaughtered and two horse carcasses were brought into the premises.

**WATER SUPPLY**

The Council's Engineer, Mr. M. E. Moore, reports as follows:—

“Only minor extensions of water mains were laid during the year to serve new housing estates. The dry summer brought about a great increase in the water consumed, particularly during the five month period June to October. The total quantity pumped during the year amounted to 197½ million gallons from both Chippenham and Swaffham Prior wells, representing an increase of 18 million gallons. The depressed water level in the well at Chippenham was considerably affected, and the dry winter has not replenished the source of supply. During the height of the drought the high parts of Ashley and Cheveley were at times during the day without water, and other parts of the district had noticeably lower pressures. Applications are still being received to supply existing properties, and extensions of supplies for irrigation purposes are becoming more frequent in the Soham, Isleham and Fordham area. The water at Chippenham and Swaffham Prior is chlorinated. At Chippenham only, ‘Calgol’ treatment is being applied in an effort to prevent deposition of scale in the hot water systems”.

In response to informal action, 44 dwellings were provided with a reasonably accessible piped water supply by property owners and where possible public standpipes are abolished.

**Sampling.**

Samples are taken for bacteriological examination and chemical analysis at the Public Health and Public Analyst's laboratories.

**Water Sampling during 1959.**

Sample	Main Supplies		Private Supplies		Total
	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	
Chemical ..	4	—	—	—	88
Bacteriological	67	10	2	5	

All samples taken for chemical analysis were untreated and collected directly from the source, along with six samples for bacteriological examination.

The minor contamination of main supplies, chiefly caused by a breakdown in the chlorinating plant, received prompt attention and subsequent samples were satisfactory.



## GENERAL INSPECTION OF THE AREA

### **Shops Act, 1950.**

Routine inspections have been made under the provisions of Section 38 relating to sanitary accommodation, ventilation and heating of shops where persons are employed. Most of the premises are covered in the routine visits to food shops.

### **Swimming Baths and Pools.**

There are no swimming baths or pools in the district, but the River Lark and Burwell Lode are regularly used during the summer.

### **Offensive Trades.**

There are no premises registered for offensive trades in the district.

### **Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.**

A rodent officer is employed by the Council on survey and treatment duties under the provisions of the above Act. A free service is provided to householders but the occupiers of business premises are charged at the rate of 7/6d. per hour.

### **Pet Animals Act, 1951.**

No licence to keep a pet shop was issued during the year.

### **Disinfestation and Disinfection.**

Advice is given to occupiers on request and where necessary rooms are sprayed with a modern insecticide or treated with a suitable powder. The following infestations or nuisances were dealt with during the year:—

Fleas	..	..	..	..	4
Cluster Flies	..	..	..	..	1
Bats	..	..	..	..	3
Wasp's Nest	..	..	..	..	178

After cases of infectious disease, rooms are disinfected on request.

### **Agriculture (Safety Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956.**

No nuisances were found in relation to this Act.

### **Clean Air Act, 1956.**

No smoke nuisances were detected during the year.

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The Lode and Longmeadow sewerage scheme was completed during the year and the following table gives an up to date picture of the number of properties served by recent schemes:—

POST WAR SEWERAGE SCHEMES.

Parish	Premises on Line of Sewer	Prem. connected to Sewer	Percentage Connected
SOHAM ..	1,230	1,068	87%
BOTTISHAM ..	274	202	74%
LODE ..	199	85	43%

The Burwell and Fordham schemes have received Ministry approval and work will have started at Burwell by the time this report is read.

Most of the Stetchworth village is sewered and the remainder will be connected to the Dullingham sewer which scheme is in the hands of the Consulting Engineers. The sewerage of the Cheveley Park area, adjoining the town, must be treated as urgent but progress cannot be made until the Urban District sewers and sewage works have been improved to receive the extra flow and this matter is receiving the attention of both Councils.



In future, free "laterals" will be laid to the curtilage of all properties, providing the owner agrees to connect to the drainage system within a period of twelve months. This will give an extra inducement to property owners and will enable the sewer and plant to be put to full use as soon as possible.

A further seven houses have been provided with drainage systems in response to statutory action under the Public Health Act, 1936, but in most cases this deficiency is made good by an informal approach.

The cesspool emptier was regularly used for the desludging of small sewage disposal plants.

## PUBLIC CLEANSING

As reported in previous years, household rubbish is collected and disposed of by direct labour and the following details illustrate the remarkable increase in the quantity of refuse collected during the last few years:—

Year	Loads
1954 .. .. .	718
1955 .. .. .	766
1956 .. .. .	785
1957 .. .. .	839
1958 .. .. .	882
1959 .. .. .	979

Three vehicles are now engaged on refuse collection, an additional vehicle being purchased when the service was improved on the 19th October, 1959. Before that date, 50% of the rural area received a fortnightly collection but the Council can now be congratulated on the fact that the whole area now enjoys a weekly service, with the exception of isolated properties where the vehicles visit at monthly intervals. A foreman and ten men are engaged on the collection and disposal of refuse and four dumps are in operation at Burwell, Fordham, Reach and Woodditton. The Reach dump was prepared for tipping operations during the year and consists of an old clunch pit in isolated surroundings. At Burwell and Reach, the rubbish is disposed of by burning and bulldozing and this system is found to be very effective in the control of pests and vermin. Controlled tipping has been carried out at Fordham and Woodditton and the Council's Rodent Officer has made frequent inspections of all dumps.

All refuse from the Urban District of Newmarket was dealt with at Burwell during the year but the Urban Authority has now obtained the use of a gravel pit at Kennett which is used exclusively for the disposal of refuse collected in the Urban District.

### Salvaged Materials.

The following materials were baled and salvaged at the Burwell Depot:—

Material	Year ended 31st March, 1960		Year ended 31st March, 1959	
	T. C. Q.	£ s. d.	T. C. Q.	£ s. d.
Waste Paper .. .. .	38 2 1	194 8 9	41 13 3	206 13 3
Ferrous Metals .. .. .	4 14 2	20 10 8	— — —	— — —
Non-Ferrous Metals .. .. .	1 15 1	30 19 9	13 3	57 16 9
Rags and Sacking .. .. .	1 3 2	27 19 4	2 13 2	55 17 4
Sundries .. .. .		12 9 0		1 16 0
TOTALS .. .. .	45 15 2	286 7 6	45 1 0	322 3 4

The selling price of mixed waste paper increased from 4/- to 6/- per cwt. and newsprint was sold during the latter part of the year at 6/6 per cwt.



## Cesspool Emptying.

One cesspool emptier and two men are fully employed on the clearing of cesspool contents and the regular desludging of small sewage disposal plants on housing estates and elsewhere. The following clearances were carried out during the year:—

Private		Council		
Cesspools cleared	Loads	Cesspools cleared	Sewage plants	Loads
445	567	597	101	1,294

There has been no change in the charges for cesspool emptying. A private contractor has been required on very few occasions.

The following statistics are of interest:—

### Statistics for the Year ended the 31st March, 1960.

compared with previous year.

## Refuse Collection and Disposal.

	March 1960	March 1959
Total Mileage .. .. .	20,685	16,810
Refuse Collected—loads .. .. .	979	882
Nett cost of service .. .. .	£6,919†	£6,300
Cost per load—collection and disposal .. .. .	£7 1 4	£7 2 10
Annual cost per 1,000 population .. .. .	£342 10 6	£311 7 6
Vehicle Costs—including repayment of loans, etc. .. .. .	£1,736†	£1,761
Cost per Mile .. .. .	1s. 8d.	2s. 1d.
Vehicles—actual running costs— .. .. .	£866	£1,137
Vehicles—actual running costs—cost per mile.. .. .	10d.	1s. 4d.
Fuel consumed:—		
Petrol gallons 1,132		
Derv gallons 1,144 .. .. .	2,276	2,177
Average mileage per gallon:—		
Petrol .. .. .	5.6	5.5
Derv .. .. .	12.5	11.1
Income from salvage sales .. .. .	£287	£322
†This figure includes £737 contribution to Renewals Fund.		
On the 19th October, 1959, the weekly refuse collection service, covering the whole area, commenced and a third vehicle was put on the road.		
<b>Cesspool Emptying.</b>		
Cost of Service .. .. .	£1,704*	£2,197
Number of loads cleared .. .. .	1,861	1,723
Cost per load—collection and disposal .. .. .	18s. 4d.	£1 5 6
Petrol consumed—gallons .. .. .	1,843	1,804
Petrol consumption per load—gallons .. .. .	1.0	1.0

\*Chargeable work amounted to £2,303 giving a surplus of £599.

**APPENDIX**  
**FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 to 1959.**

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the year 1959 for the  
Rural District of Newmarket in the County of Cambridgeshire.

Prescribed Particulars of the Administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

**Part 1 of the Act.**

**1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health:—**

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspec- tions (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are enforced by Local Authorities (i.e. factories not having mechanical power) .. .. .	5	—	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the L.A. (i.e. factories having mechanical power) .. .. .	63	59	2	—
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the L.A. (excluding out-workers' premises) .. .. .	—	—	—	—
TOTAL .. .. .	68	59	2	—

**2. Cases in which defects were found:—**

Particulars (1)	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		No. of cases in which prosecu- tions were instituted (6)
			To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temp. (S.3) .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4) .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of Floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—					
(a) Insufficient .. .. .	2	2	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective .. .. .	4	4	—	2	—
(c) Not separate for sexes .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work) .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL .. .. .	6	6	—	2	—







